Medical facilities for retired Commissioned Officers of N.C.C.

4932. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what sort of medical facilities are available to released Emergency Commissioned Officers who retired after serving in the N.C.C.; and

(b) if no such facilities are available, the steps taken by Government to provide them medical aid from military hospitals or CGHS dispensaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Retired N.C.C. whole time officers, including those released Emergency Commissioned Officers who later joined N.C.C., are not entitled to treatment either from Military hospitals or through C.G.H.S. However, they can avail of medical facilities in Government Civil hospitals throughout the country like other citizens of India.

Modernisation of armed forces

4933. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of our national security requirements, the armed forces ungently require modernisation and re-equipments; and

(b) what steps Government intend to take with regard to the urgently needed modernisation of armed forces since the outlay on defence in the budget remains virtually static ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Modernisation of our Armed Forces is an on-going process which takes into account the changing threat scenario, technologies, the geopolitical environment as well as the availability of the resources. A concerted exercise is undertaken each year to determine modernisation priorities. Our Armed Forces are being equipped and modernised to maintain highest level of defence preparedness.

(b) The expenditure on defence during the past few years has not remained static. Every year, a portion of the defence budget is earmarked for undertaking modernisation. It would not be in national interest to divulge the exact details of modernisation programme of our Armed Forces.

Vacant posts of Maulvis in the Army

4934. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of posts advertised during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94 for 'MAULVIS' in the Army; and

(b) what is the number of vacant posts as on the 31st March, 1994 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) During the year 1992-93 four posts and during 1993-94 two posts of 'MAULVIS' in the Army were advertised;

(b) As on 31st March, 1994, three posts of 'MAULVIS' were vacant.

Acquisition of land for firing range in South Bihar

4935. SHRI O. P. KOHLI :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 245 villages in Palamu, Gumla and Ranchi districts of South Bihar have been acquired for the proposed expansion of Netarhat Field Firing Range;

(b) whether more than one lakh tribals of these villages will have to be evicted for this purpose;

(c) whether Government have chalked out plans for proper rehabilitation of the tribals before evicting them from their ancestral homes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?